NBVC News Briefs

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NMCI – An Overview

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NMCI, What Is It?

The Navy, Marine Corps Intranet contract (NMCI) was awarded on October 6, 2000 to Electronic Data Systems (EDS) and a host of first-tier subcontractors, collectively known as the Information Strike Force (ISF). NMCI will deliver comprehensive, end-to-end information services enterprise-wide to the United States Navy and United States Marine Corps through a common computing and communications environment. This environment will enhance system and software interoperability and enhance information exchange capability for garrisoned and deployed forces as well as individual users. NMCI will provide secure and higher quality voice, video and data services at a lower cost than the Department of the Navy is paying today.

NMCI is an information technology (IT) services contract. This is a relatively new within the Department of Defense. It requires a shift in mindset regarding how IT services are delivered. NMCI *is not* a hardware, software, network contract. It is a services contract. Basic services are funded by major claimants via the Department of the Navy. NMCI will furnish workstations, software, printers, network services, help desk and related services. Contract performance will be measured by almost 40 Service Level Agreements (SLAs). These range from Desktop Hardware and Operating System through Web-Accessed Services and Information Assurance and extend to Help Desk Support and Technology Refresh.

Who is the Information Strike Force (ISF)?

The Navy, Marine Corps Intranet contract was awarded on October 6, 2000 to Electronic Data Systems (EDS) and a host of first-tier subcontractors. Collectively, the EDS team is known as the Information Strike Force (ISF) and is comprised of **EDS** (Global IT services leader), **Raytheon** (Leading provider of high-tech defense systems and security expertise), **WorldCom** (Premier global communications company), **WAM!NET** (Leading provider of business-to-business services), **Dataline** (Communications and IT service expertise). In addition, other industry leaders including **Dell, Dolch, Microsoft, Cisco, and Robbins-Gioia.**

What is the NMCI Scope?

NMCI includes everything necessary to ensure the transmission of voice, video and data information. It includes associated capital infrastructure improvements necessary to meet quality-of-service requirements, as well as maintenance, training and operation of that infrastructure.

Where Will Work be Performed?

At more than 300 Navy and Marine Corps bases located across the United States, Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Japan, Guam, Hawaii and Iceland for an estimated 360,000 Navy and Marine Corps uniformed and civilian work force members, including contractors.

Why NMCI?
NMCI will reduce cost through economies of scale by standardizing the Navy and Marine Corps' information technology (IT) infrastructure including hardware, software, network, help desk and support staff.

What will happen to my existing workstation, printer, network connection?
NMCI is intended to replace existing computer hardware (e.g., workstations, laptops, printers, servers) with new systems. For the most, printers will be shared. In many instances, network connections will improve, particularly between the two Naval Base Ventura County campuses located at Port Hueneme and Point Mugu.

What about Help Desk Services?
Help desk services will be provided via NOCs (Network Operations Centers) that will be staffed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week (24/7). A toll-free number will be made available when contract services begin at the Cutover milestone.

What is a Gold Disk?
All NMCI-delivered workstations and laptops will have a standard load of software. Software will include the MS2000 operating system, Office 2000, and a compliment of utility applications. All other software required by the end-user is considered a Legacy Application. Legacy Apps will be discussed in a future article.

Where can I get more information?
Frequently asked questions are listed by category at the following website:

- http://www.eds-gov.com/nmcifaqs/faq_general.asp

Locally, the NBVC transition to NMCI is being lead by the Regional Information Technology Services Center – Ventura County Site (RITSC-VCS). Patsy Higgins is the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of RITSC-VCS and is acting as the NMCI Transition Manager for NBVC. She has formed a Customer Technical Representative (CTR) Team to manage the day-to-day affairs of the transition to NMCI. The CTR Team is composed of George Ramirez (CTR), and two Associate CTRs, Dave Kingston (NMCI Hardware issues) and Donna French (NMCI software issues). Questions may be directed to the CTR at ramirezgs@nbvc.navy.mil.

NMCI – GETTING READY FOR TRANSITION

George Ramirez
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Everyone who uses a computer and who physically works at NBVC or accesses a computer or server at NBVC will be impacted by the Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) contract. This week's column will focus on understanding some of the NMCI terms, milestones, and the steps required to transition to NMCI.

As-Is and To Be

As-Is. Part of the transition process involves conducting a detailed inventory to identify the existing infrastructure that will be taken-over by the Information Strike Force (ISF) at the Assumption of Responsibilities (AOR) milestone. For the end-user, this inventory includes listing each and every software application – including version numbers - required to do your job. For hardware, the inventory extends to the identification of computers, monitors, printers and other peripheral devices. Model number, serial number, bar code number, building, and room number locations are required.

To-Be. Existing computer equipment will be replaced with NMCI "seats". A seat is the complete service that will be provided through the NMCI contract. It consists of hardware, software, network connectivity, e-mail, internet access, and 24/7 help desk support. Each organization transitioning to NMCI will have Seat Orders places via the Customer Technical Representative (CTR). The CTR obtains information from a single point of contact appointed by their respective organization. The CTR for NBVC is George Ramirez (RamirezGS@nbvc.navy.mil).

UIC Points of Contact. Each organization has an NMCI point of contact for their unit identification code (UIC). If you don't know who your NMCI point of contact is, contact Dave Kingston (KingstonDA@nbvc.navy.mil) or Donna French (FrenchDM@nbvc.navy.mil). This information will soon be posted in the NMCI website on the NBVC Ventura Navy Net (VNN) at http://199.114.28.9/vnn/.

EULA (End-User Licensing Agreements). As directed by a message from the chief of Naval Operations (CNO), software licenses are required for all applications that will migrate to the NMCI environment. It is mandatory to gather all software licenses prior to April 2002 in preparation to transfer these to the NMCI contractor team (the Information Strike Force).

What Happens at AOR?

For most end-users, the first significant milestone in the NMCI transition will be Assumption of Responsibilities (AOR). At Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), AOR is scheduled to occur in April 2002. At AOR, the Information Strike Force assumes

responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the information technology (IT) infrastructure. This is a phased hand-off from the Regional Information Technology Services Center – Ventura County Site (RITSC-VCS) to the ISF.

What To Do Now – A Checklist

- Gather Knowledge. Learn the NMCI transition process. Take advantage of the information that is available through articles in the Lighthouse, request briefings, and via links to NMCI websites in the Ventura Navy Net (http://199.114.28.9/vnn/).

- The Gold Disk. Understand its contents. This will be that standard software installed on every NMCI computer. See Table 1.

- Legacy Applications. All software applications that are not on the Gold Disk are Legacy Applications. "Legacy Apps" must be identified and certified for use in the NMCI environment now. See Zero Based Software Inventory, below.

- Zero Based Software Inventory. This inventory should have recently been completed by every organization at NBVC that will transitioning to NMCI in April 2002. It will be required of <u>every</u> organization prior to transitioning to NMCI. Simply stated, a Zero Based Inventory requires the identification of every software application on every computer that is required to accomplish your organization's mission. *This is not a wish list. It should not include such software as games, peculiar browsers, utilities, spreadsheet programs, word processor programs whose functions can be performed by software on the Gold Disk.*

- No Games! Software not required to do your job will not be installed on your NMCI computer.

- Backup Your Files. Identify and locate all of your files and back them up. When NMCI cutover occurs, you will be required to upload your files to a server prior to the replacement of your existing computer with an NMCI seat (computer and all support services).

What will happen to my existing workstation, printer, network connection?
With few exceptions, NMCI will replace existing computer hardware (e.g., workstations, laptops, printers, servers) with new systems.

What about Help Desk Services?
Help desk services will be provided via NOCs (Network Operations Centers) that will be staffed 24/7 (twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week). A toll-free number will be made available when contract services begin at Cutover.

Legacy Applications and The Gold Disk, What Does This Mean to Me?
Last week, I discussed the Gold Disk in broad terms. The Gold Disk contains all of the standard software applications that will be loaded onto each NMCI computer.

SERVICE	SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION (MINIMUM VERSION)	VENDOR
	MS Windows 2000 Build 2195 SP1	Microsoft
Operating System		
Office Suite	MS Office Pro 2000 SR-1a	Microsoft
Email Client	MS Outlook 2000	Microsoft
Internet Browser	MS Internet Explorer 5.5 SP-1 128bit	Microsoft
Virus Protection	Norton A/V Corp Edition v7.5	Symantec
PDF Viewer	Acrobat Reader v.4.05c	Adobe
Terminal Emulator - Host (TN3270, VT100, X-Terminal)	Reflection 8.0.5	WRQ
Compression Tool	Winzip v.8	Winzip
Collaboration Tool	Net Meeting v3.01 (4.4.3385)	Microsoft
MultiMedia	RealPlayer 8	RealNetworks
MultiMedia	Windows Media Player v7.0.0.1956	Microsoft
Internet Browser	Communicator 4.76	Netscape

Plug-ins

Web Controls	MacroMedia Shockwave v 8.0	MacroMedia
Web Controls	Flash Player 5.0	MacroMedia
Web Controls	Apple Quicktime Movie and Audio Viewer v4.12	Apple
Web Controls	IPIX v6,2,0,5	Internet Pictures

Security Apps

Security	Intruder Alert v3.5	Axent
Security	ESM v5.1	Axent

Agents

Software Management	Radia Client Connect	Novadigm
Inventory, Remote control	Tivoli TMA 3.7	IBM/Tivoli

Remote Connectivity (Notebooks)

Dial-up connectivity	PAL	MCI/Worldcom
VPN	VPN Client	Alcatel

Table 1 – Gold Disk Contents as of 9-5-01

Legacy Peripherals and NMCI

This is a discussion of one strategy regarding continued use of the Government's investment in peripheral devices in the Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) environment. It is not contractually binding.

To try and preserve current investment in PC peripheral devices a best effort attempt will be made to migrate those local devices currently connected to a user's legacy PC to the user's new NMCI seat when ordered. Not all legacy devices will work in a Windows 2000 environment but a "best effort" attempt will be made to migrate those devices that have been certified by Microsoft to work with the Windows 2000 operating system.

This article only applies to legacy peripheral devices. Software required to be migrated must be designated as legacy applications and must follow the legacy applications certification process. Contact Donna French (frenchdm@nbvc.navy.mil) for assistance.

Windows 2000 Compatibility

To determine whether a peripheral device has been certified by Microsoft to work with Windows 2000 you can check the Windows 2000 compatibility web site at http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/server/howtobuy/upgrading/compat/default.asp.

Note that only those devices actually certified by Microsoft may be migrated. These devices will not be provided with maintenance or support. If a problem occurs with one of these devices, the ISF help desk and local staff will only provide "best effort" to remedy the problem. If this does not successfully resolve the problem, the user will be requested to order a replacement device from the contract.

Guidelines

Printers
Legacy desktop printers that are certified to work with Windows 2000 will be connected by default to the LPT1 port on the desktop, but may be connected to the USB port if required. These printers will not be configured to support the option of being shared.

Scanners & Scanning Software
Legacy scanners that are TWAIN32 compliant and plug into parallel or USB ports will be migrated if they are certified for Windows 2000. Scanner software will not be migrated unless designated as a legacy application. Microsoft Word 2000 and PowerPoint 2000 will be the default scanning software.

CD-RW Drives
External CD-RW drives that are certified to work with Windows 2000 and connect to parallel or USB ports will be migrated. CD-RW software will not be migrated unless

designated as a legacy application. Adaptec Easy CD Creator will be the default CD creation software.

DVD Drives

NMCI seats include DVD drive capability. No legacy DVD drives will be supported.

CD Drives

NMCI seats include CD drive capability. No legacy CD drives will be supported.

Speakers

NMCI seats (except Thin Client) come with speakers. Current speakers can be migrated as long as no special audio card is required.

Monitors

NMCI seats come with monitors. If an existing large monitor or LCD Flat Panel is in use, it can be migrated as long as it is certified with Windows 2000 and will work with the NMCI graphics card.

Personal Digital Assistants (PDA)

PDAs such as Palm, Visor, and WINCE devices will be supported. Synchronization software will not be migrated unless designated as a legacy application. Palm Desktop Software will be the default synchronization program.

Networking

No non-NMCI certified networking equipment will be allowed.

Controller Cards

Specialized controller cards such as TV Tuners, Firewire cards, some IDE and SCSI cards will not be supported. If a user requires these devices an Enhanced Hybrid or S&T seat should be considered.

BIOs Compatability

Bios is an important aspect to Windows 2000 Compatibility. BIOs upgrades may be required for peripheral devices to work correctly with Windows 2000. For more information check the Microsoft Compatibility page at http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/server/howtobuy/upgrading/compat/biosissue.a sp . NMCI is not responsible for cost of BIOs upgrade or data loss associated with BIOS upgrades.

Future Implications

All future peripheral devices should be procured from the contract catalog, Contract Line Item Number (CLIN) 0023. This is to ensure compatibility across the Navy and Marine Corps, to ensure that software support for the devices in included with the NMCI seat and to ensure that the products are certified to work in the NMCI environment. On an ongoing basis products may be added to CLIN0023.